



# GREATER AKRON AUDUBON *Matters*

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## **My Witt's End** – by Clyde Witt, editor

### *An Opportunity to Excel*

At our annual summer planning session, the executive committee of Greater Akron Audubon Society discussed the challenge of continuing our paper-based newsletter. This is a perennial discussion for us that usual bears no fruit. This time, however, it looks like something green is about to flower (to mix a metaphor).

I'm backing into the subject because the electronic solution is not carved in stone. The end of the story is that we'll be going to some form of electronic-based newsletter next year. Exactly what that looks like, we're not sure. A digital format offers great opportunities for more extensive color photo coverage and longer articles, plus contributed columns.

Thanks goes to Joyce Pelz for doing the research and reaching out, electronically, to the national Audubon world to determine what and how other chapters are managing their chapter communications.

Of the numerous ideas and suggestions we've received, to me the plan with the most merit is a combination of sending the newsletter via eMail and posting it on the Web site. Some people don't like to cough up their eMail address, others find using internet services intimidating. This plan will make everyone happy, or upset, I don't know which.

We still, however, have a group (and we have no idea how large that group is) of members without access to the digital world—for whatever reason. What to do about them? Several answers come to mind. And simple though these solutions might seem, they'll require money and a modicum of human power extracted from an already over-extended group of dedicated chapter officers.

We know where this journey is going to end. We just don't know to get there. We could use a little help drawing the map.

Any suggestions? Talk with Mark or any member of the executive committee, please.

## **Program Schedule**

The chapter holds meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month, except for December when we do the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. June is our annual picnic, so the meeting place will most likely be Bath Nature Preserve. There are no meetings in July and August. Meetings are held at Mingo Shelter in Sand Run MetroPark in the Merriman Valley. The entrance is off Sand Run Parkway, east of the ford and east of the Shady Hollow Pavilion. Check MetroPark's maps at [www.summitmetroparks.org](http://www.summitmetroparks.org) for a map of Sand Run Park. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The meeting begins promptly at 7:00 p.m., usually with a short, informative, business session. Meetings are open to the public so bring a friend.

## **Another Great Program Line Up**

At press time the full schedule of programs had not been confirmed. Those we do have, however, are outstanding—as usual. This year the executive committee scanned the globe for a mix of programs to serve all interests. The schedule leans heavily toward the avian side of nature, with some interesting twists. Bird programs will be balanced with informative presentations featuring other natural and man-made phenomena.

**SEPTEMBER 25:** Dan Bertsch, chief naturalist, Medina Parks. "Alaska the Great Land." There remains few places on earth that are as majestic as Alaska. From ice sculpted fiords and massive glaciers, to the tallest peaks in North America, the scenery of Alaska is nothing less than breathtaking. This program will include scenery and wildlife from the coastal rainforest of southeast Alaska to the taiga and tundra of Denali National Park. Emphasis will be placed on the life of the bald eagle.

**OCTOBER 23:** Dr. Ali Dhinojwala, from the department of Polymer Science, University of Akron, "Learning from Geckos to Climb Walls." This will be a great program for kids—or adults finding themselves climbing the walls to escape the kids.

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**Editor's Note:** Because of chapter budgetary concerns, rather than reduce the already overburdened Newsletter staff, the executive committee has opted to print four Newsletters again this season. Hang on to this one. Inside there's important information about programs and the Annual Wild Bird Seed Sale. You'll receive the next issue in early October. For an up-to-the-minute schedule attend the meetings, stay tuned—and keep your eye on the chapter's Web site, [www.akronaudubon.org](http://www.akronaudubon.org).

**NOVEMBER 27:** Dr. John Szabo, Department of Geology & Environmental Science, University of Akron, “Glaciation of northeastern Ohio.” The ground we walk on and over which birds fly, is not something to be taken for granite, err, granted. Here’s a wonderful opportunity to learn more with rock-solid information from a pro. It’s a story about push and shove.

**DECEMBER 16:** Christmas Bird Count and Chili Dinner. Annual Christmas Bird Count replaces our December meeting time. Learn about the count and how you can help with this critical piece of citizen science by attending earlier meetings, or checking for updates on our Web site. As has become our custom, we will also have a chili supper at the Mingo Shelter following the count.

**35th Summit County Census** – by Ann Chasar and Doug Vogus, coordinators

We stand proud! In 1978, the first year of this census, 17 participants tallied 4,700 birds (99 species) in 85 field hours. In this 35th year, 85 volunteers put in 456 field-hours to tally 32,499 birds, with a record 131 species.

A few comments on 2012, in no particular order: Nineteen Dickcissels reflect their exciting burst in Ohio. Most were found at the new Springfield Bog MetroPark and at PPG’s Lime Lakes. Double-crested Cormorants are nesting at Columbia Lake in Barberton. Pileated Woodpeckers are at an all-time high as are

Red-shouldered Hawks. Eighteen warbler species were found. With perseverance 14 of those can be found every year in appropriate habitat. Oddly, the Brown-headed Cowbird count was the lowest ever and the Baltimore Oriole count was the 2nd lowest (birds/party hour).

What species were found in Summit County in the early census years that are not found now? And, what species are found in 2012 that were not found in 1978? Check it out at [akronaudubon.org](http://akronaudubon.org). It really is interesting. And then try to explain the changes!

1338 Canada Goose	233 Turkey Vulture	26 Spotted Sandpiper	5 Common Nighthawk
286 Eastern Wood-Pewee	150 Warbling Vireo	488 Tufted Titmouse	55 Veery
4 Louisiana Waterthrush	7 Pine Warbler	7 Henslow’s Sparrow	2063 Red-winged Blackbird
4 Mute Swan	20 Osprey	10 American Woodcock	410 Chimney Swift
139 Acadian Flycatcher	455 Red-eyed Vireo	8 Red-breasted Nuthatch	3 Hermit Thrush
51 Blue-winged Warbler	14 Yellow-throated Warbler	1027 Song Sparrow	40 Eastern Meadowlark
218 Wood Duck	3 Bald Eagle	12 Ring-billed Gull	67 Ruby-throated Hummingbird
6 Alder Flycatcher	749 Blue Jay	342 White-breasted Nuthatch	153 Wood Thrush
1 Black-and-white Warbler	1 Prairie Warbler	87 Swamp Sparrow	1033 Common Grackle
1 American Black Duck	1 Sharp-shinned Hawk	8 Herring Gull	60 Belted Kingfisher
91 Willow Flycatcher	590 American Crow	11 Brown Creeper	3216 American Robin
7 Prothonotary Warbler	8 Black-thr. Green Warbler	1 White-throated Sparrow	299 Brown-headed Cowbird
861 Mallard	29 Cooper’s Hawk	213 Rock Pigeon	6 Red-headed Woodpecker
4 Least Flycatcher	2 Horned Lark	96 Carolina Wren	968 Gray Catbird
366 Common Yellowthroat	3 Yellow-breasted Chat	8 Dark-eyed Junco	27 Orchard Oriole
1 Blue-winged Teal	47 Red-shouldered Hawk	936 Mourning Dove	253 Red-bellied Woodpecker
99 Eastern Phoebe	389 Purple Martin	322 House Wren	7 Northern Mockingbird
148 Hooded Warbler	235 Eastern Towhee	163 Scarlet Tanager	149 Baltimore Oriole
29 Wild Turkey	7 Broad-winged Hawk	23 Yellow-billed Cuckoo	323 Downy Woodpecker
114 Great Crested Flycatcher	565 Tree Swallow	3 Winter Wren	28 Brown Thrasher
42 American Redstart	530 Chipping Sparrow	1331 Northern Cardinal	10 Purple Finch
1 Pied-billed Grebe	114 Red-tailed Hawk	3 Black-billed Cuckoo	74 Hairy Woodpecker
90 Eastern Kingbird	310 N. Rough-winged Swallow	2 Sedge Wren	1679 European Starling
26 Cerulean Warbler	140 Field Sparrow	155 Rose-breasted Grosbeak	349 House Finch
66 Double-crested Cormorant	5 (1 juv) American Kestrel	4 Eastern Screech-Owl	155 Northern Flicker
18 White-eyed Vireo	304 Bank Swallow	1 Marsh Wren	534 Cedar Waxwing
1 Magnolia Warbler	1 Vesper Sparrow	380 Indigo Bunting	2 Pine Siskin
483 Great Blue Heron	8 Peregrine Falcon	6 (2 juv) Great Horned Owl	62 Pileated Woodpecker
43 Yellow-throated Vireo	540 Barn Swallow	83 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	25 Ovenbird
498 Yellow Warbler	60 Savannah Sparrow	19 Dickcissel	1111 American Goldfinch
47 Green Heron	152 Killdeer	7 Barred Owl	1 Worm-eating warbler
13 Blue-headed Vireo	774 Black-capped Chickadee	203 Eastern Bluebird	1656 House Sparrow
9 Chestnut-sided Warbler	9 Grasshopper Sparrow	131 Bobolink	
Total Species: 131		Total Birds: 32499	

**MANY THANKS to a fantastic group of volunteers** Party Hours: 456 # Volunteers: 85

Claudia Anders, Gregory Bennett, Rob & Peg Bobel, Steve Borgis, Garnet Byrne, John Cameron, Bob Capanna, Dwight & Ann Chasar, Ernie Cornelius, Pat Coy, Wayne Crouse, George & Sandy Cull, Phyllis Devlin, Fred Dinkelbach, Meghan Doran, Sue Dupstadt, Mike Edgington, Paul Ellsworth, Dave Ford, Chriss Fulton, Bob Fritz, Bob Furst, Craig Griffin, Marty & Ann Gulbransen, Mary Ann Halliday, Judy Hendrick, Michele Hendrick, Bob Hinkle, Nancy Howell, Larry Hunter, Mary Lou Hura, Diane Johnson, Susan Jones, Hedy Jones, Steve & Marilyn Kaminsky, Winnie Kennedy, Jim Knisely, Gene & Linda Kovach, Jefferey & Marian Kraus, Louisa Kreider, Pat Lanese, Kay Lavener, Karl Liske, Elaine Marsh, Sarah Matheny, Wilbur McQueen, Marie Morgan, Marianne Nolan, Hope Orr, Bill Osborne, Michael Pasek, Wolfgang & Joyce Pelz, Ed Pierce, Jim Reyda, Fred Riley, Bryn Roberts, Tom & Mary Anne Romito, Pat Rydquist, Geroge & Linda Sangrik, Phyllis Schnell, Stanley Stine, Bert Szabo, Jim & Peggy Tomko, Renee Tressler, Henry & Jim Trimpe, Doug Vogus, James Vogus, Annette Webb, Janet Wertz, John & Judy Wilkinson, Clyde Witt, Michelle Zager.

## Annual Wild Bird Seed Sale

We've confirmed the date with Copley Feed for our Annual Wild Bird Seed Sale, November 10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Plan your purchases, however, be prepared for sticker shock. According to Mark Roesner of Copley Feed, and the folks at Olinger Seed (our generous partners in this venture), pricing of sunflower products has gone crazy this season for a couple reasons: The huge jump in sunflower cost forced by a drought in the Midwest and ... Actually, it's a single reason—the weather.

We'll have the usual menu of avian attractions, plus peanuts (shelled, 25-lb bags) a favorite of Blue Jays and those fat fuzzy brown birds with big fluffy tails.

As has been our tradition, this year's wild bird seed sale is possible through the generous cooperation of Copley Feed & Supply store on Copley Circle, 1468 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road.

Our seed is fresh and prices are competitive with retail offerings in the area. This is the chapter's only fund raising effort. Profits support our educational programs and newsletters.

A special thanks go to Nancy and Mark Roesner of Copley Feed for their usual outstanding generosity. And let's give an additional shout-out to Joyce and Wolfgang Pelz, and the good folks at NaturaLawn of America, for their efforts in coordinating this project.

### **Order Deadline is November 3rd Pick up is November 10th at Copley Feed**

Please mail your check, payable to Greater Akron Audubon Society, and completed order form ASAP to:

JoyWolf Enterprises  
PO Box 26278  
Akron, OH 44319

All order forms must be in by November 3rd to accurately place the order with Copley Feed.

		How many?	Total \$
Oil Sunflower, 50 pounds .....	\$30.00	_____	_____
Niger seed, 10 pounds .....	\$13.00	_____	_____
Wild bird mix:			
20 pounds .....	\$13.00	_____	_____
50 pounds .....	\$27.00	_____	_____
Bird Banquet, 35 pounds .....	\$25.00	_____	_____
Songbird Choice, 40 pounds .....	\$33.00	_____	_____
Peanuts, 25 pounds .....	\$36.00	_____	_____
I would like to donate to the Chapter general fund .....			_____
		<b>TOTAL</b>	_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ **(In case we must call.)**

*Pick-up will be Saturday, November 10th from 9AM to 1PM, at Copley Feed.  
All seed not picked up by 1PM is donated to the Seiberling Nature Realm.*